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EXAMINER

SERRAO, RANODHI N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2141

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/045,883

Applicant(s)

KUMAR ET AL.

Examiner

Ranodhi Serrao

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03 January 2006 has been entered.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 03 January 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
3. The applicant argued in substance the newly added limitations of the pending claims. However, these features are taught in the cited prior art of record. See rejections below.
4. Furthermore, the applicant argued that Blumenau fails to support the implementation of virtualization among any number of network devices within a storage area network. The examiner points to col. 43, lines 1-21, wherein Blumenau describes multiple devices in storage area networks, and furthermore in col. 32, lines 6-10, wherein Blumenau describes virtualization of such devices. Furthermore, the applicant argued that Blumenau fails to support the dynamic implementation of virtualization of storage within a storage area through the use to such messages. In col. 34, line 59-col.

35, line 19, Blumenau teaches dynamic allocation and de-allocation of logical volumes. This is done thru commands or messages. Therefore, the cited reference teaches the invention as claimed.

5. The applicant also argued that as recited in the pending claims, a separate network device (e.g., virtual enclosure server) operates to instruct a physical port of another network device to act on behalf of a virtual port. However, this is not statement true since it does not appear in the claimed language. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a separate network device (e.g., virtual enclosure server) operates to instruct a physical port of another network device to act on behalf of a virtual port.) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

6. The applicant moreover argued that Blumenau fails to disclose sending messages such as bind or trap messages. As noted in col. 24, lines 10-33, physical ports are associated with virtual ports, and they communicate thru commands or messages. This therefore serves the function of bind and trap messages.

7. The applicant argued that in contrast, the claimed invention creates a virtual enclosure independent of hosts that may access the virtual storage units. Once again, this is not statement true since it does not appear in the claimed language. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's

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invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., creates a virtual enclosure independent of hosts that may access the virtual storage units) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). In conclusion, Blumenau et al. teaches the invention as claimed.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

8. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

9. Claims 1 and 3-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blumenau et al. (6,260,120).

10. As per claims 1, 16, 17, and 18, Blumenau et al. teaches a method of implementing storage virtualization in a storage area network (column 8, lines 5-10), the method comprising: creating a virtual enclosure, the virtual enclosure having one or more virtual enclosure ports and being adapted for representing one or more virtual storage units, each of the virtual storage units representing one or more physical storage locations on one or more physical storage units of the storage area network (column 7, lines 16-23); associating each of the virtual enclosure ports of the virtual enclosure with a port of a network device within the storage area network (column 18, lines 8-34), thereby enabling one or more network devices within the storage area network to be associated with the virtual enclosure ports (col. 25, lines 8-28); and

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assigning an address or identifier to each of the virtual enclosure ports (column 11, line 58-column 12, line 8); wherein associating each of the virtual enclosure ports of the virtual enclosure with a port of a network device within the storage area network (col. 24, line 51-col. 25, line 7 and col. 25, lines 29-49), includes: sending a message from a first network device to a port of a second network device within the storage area network to instruct the port of the second network device to handle messages addressed to the address or identifier assigned to the associated virtual enclosure port (col. 41, line 54-col. 42, line 20).

11. As per claim 3, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the storage area network is a virtual storage area network (column 24, lines 31-55).

12. As per claim 4, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: associating a Node World Wide Name with the virtual enclosure (column 11, lines 15-24).

13. As per claim 5, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: assigning a Port World Wide Name to each of the virtual enclosure ports such that the Port World Wide Name is associated with an associated port of a network device within the storage area network (column 11, lines 15-24).

14. As per claim 6, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the port of the second network device within the storage area network is a port of a fibre channel device (column 9, lines 25-49).

15. As per claim 7, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein assigning an address or identifier to each of the virtual enclosure ports comprises: assigning a FCID to each of the virtual enclosure ports (column 28, lines 33-51).

16. As per claim 8, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: selecting a number of virtual enclosure ports to be included in the virtual enclosure (column 24, lines 10-33).

17. As per claim 9, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the number of virtual enclosure ports of the virtual enclosure is greater than a number of ports of each network device within the storage area network (column 18, lines 8-34).

18. As per claim 10, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein associating each of the virtual enclosure ports of the virtual enclosure with a port of a second network device within the storage area network comprises: associating the virtual enclosure ports with ports of one or more network devices within the storage area network (column 25, lines 29-49).

19. As per claim 11, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein associating each of the virtual enclosure ports of the virtual enclosure with a port of a network device within the storage area network comprises: sending a bind message to a port of a network device within the storage area network (col. 24, lines 10-33), thereby binding the port of a network device within the storage area network to one or more of the virtual enclosure ports (column 10, lines 42-67).

20. As per claim 12, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: sending a trap message to one or more additional ports of one or more network devices within

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the storage area network (col. 41, lines 22-53), thereby instructing the one or more additional ports of one or more network devices within the storage area network to trap messages directed to one of the virtual enclosure ports (column 41, lines 8-21).

21. As per claims 13 and 15, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein one or more of the virtual storage units each comprises a VLUN or other virtual representation of storage on the storage area network (column 24, lines 34-55 and column 43, lines 1-21).

22. As per claim 14, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, farther comprising: assigning one or more virtual storage units to the virtual enclosure (column 24, lines 34-55).

23. As per claims 19 and 20, Blumenau et al. teaches a method of performing LUN mapping in a storage area network, the method comprising: accessing a LUN mapping table having one or more entries (column 7, lines 9-11), each of the entries identifying an initiator in the storage area network, one or more of a set of one or more virtual enclosure ports of a virtual enclosure, and associating a specified logical unit with one or more virtual storage units (column 27, lines 23-38), each of the virtual storage units representing one or more physical storage locations on one or more physical storage units of the storage area network (column 24, lines 10-33), wherein the virtual enclosure is adapted for representing the set of one or more virtual storage units (column 24, lines 34-55) and each of the virtual enclosure ports is associated with a port of a network device within the storage area network (column 24, lines 10-33), wherein the port of the network device has received a message from another network device instructing the port to handle messages addressed to the associated virtual enclosure port (column 25,



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lines 29-49 and col. 41, line 54-col. 42, line 20); and when a request for the specified logical unit is received from the initiator via one of the associated virtual enclosure ports, identifying one of the entries in the LUN mapping table and employing the one or more virtual storage units specified in the entry to service the request (column 29, lines 43-56).

24. As per claims 21, Blumenau et al. teaches in a first network device a method of implementing storage virtualization in a storage area network, the method comprising: sending or receiving a virtualization message to a port of a second network device within the storage area network, the virtualization message instructing the port to handle messages addressed to a virtual enclosure port of a virtual enclosure, the virtual enclosure having one or more virtual enclosure ports and being adapted for representing one or more virtual storage units (column 25, lines 29-49 and col. 41, line 54-col. 42, line 20), each of the virtual storage units representing one or more physical storage locations on one or more physical storage units of the storage area network (column 25, lines 8-28); and receiving or sending a virtualization response from the port of the network device in response to the virtualization message (column 25, lines 50-67).

25. As per claim 22, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the virtual enclosure port is identified by a NWWN and a PWWN (column 12, lines 27-54).

26. As per claim 23, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the virtualization response indicates that the port is configured to handle messages addressed to the virtual enclosure port of the virtual enclosure (column 16, line 60-column 17, line 19).

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27. As per claim 24, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the virtualization message indicates that the port is to obtain an address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port (column 12, lines 27-54).

28. As per claim 25, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the virtualization message is a bind message or a trap message (column 11, lines 41-57).

29. As per claim 26, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the virtualization response comprises the address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port (column 11, line 58-column 12, line 8).

30. As per claim 27, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the virtualization message indicates that the port is to obtain an address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port from a DNS server (column 11, lines 41-57: wherein the name server serves the function of a DNS server).

31. As per claim 28, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: receiving the address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port (column 12, lines 27-54).

32. As per claims 29 and 31, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the address or identifier is an FCID (column 28, lines 33-51).

33. As per claim 30, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the virtualization message indicates that the port is to handle messages addressed to an address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port (column 40, line 66-column 41, line 7).

34. As per claim 32, Blumenau et al. teaches a computer-readable medium storing thereon computer-readable instructions for implementing storage virtualization in a first network device of a storage area network, comprising: instructions for sending a

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virtualization message to a port of a second network device within the storage area network, the virtualization message instructing the port to handle messages addressed to a virtual enclosure port of a virtual enclosure, the virtual enclosure having one or more virtual enclosure ports and being adapted for representing one or more virtual storage units (column 25, lines 29-49 and col. 41, line 54-col. 42, line 20), each of the virtual storage units representing one or more physical storage locations on one or more physical storage units of the storage area network (column 25, lines 8-28); and instructions for receiving a virtualization response from the port of the second network device in response to the virtualization message (column 25, lines 50-67).

35. As per claim 33, Blumenau et al. teaches an apparatus adapted for implementing storage virtualization in a first network device of a storage area network, comprising: means for sending a virtualization message to a port of a network device within the storage area network, the virtualization message instructing the port to handle messages addressed to a virtual enclosure port of a virtual enclosure, the virtual enclosure having one or more virtual enclosure ports and being adapted for representing one or more virtual storage units (column 25, lines 29-49 and col. 41, line 54-col. 42, line 20), each of the virtual storage units representing one or more physical storage locations on one or more physical storage units of the storage area network (column 25, lines 8-28); and means for receiving a virtualization response from the port of the second network device in response to the virtualization message (column 25, lines 50-67).

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36. As per claim 34, Blumenau et al. teaches an apparatus adapted for implementing storage virtualization in a first network device of a storage area network, comprising: a processor; and a memory, at least one of the processor and the memory (column 9, lines 25-49), being adapted for: sending a virtualization message to a port of a network device within the storage area network, the virtualization message instructing the port to handle messages addressed to a virtual enclosure port of a virtual enclosure, the virtual enclosure having one or more virtual enclosure ports and being adapted for representing one or more virtual storage units (column 25, lines 29-49 and col. 41, line 54-col. 42, line 20), each of the virtual storage units representing one or more physical storage locations on one or more physical storage units of the storage area network (column 25, lines 8-28); and receiving a virtualization response from the port of the second network device in response to the virtualization message (column 25, lines 50-67).

37. As per claim 35, Blumenau et al. teaches in a method of implementing storage virtualization in a first network device of a storage area network, the method comprising: receiving a virtualization message to a port of the first network device from a second network device within the storage area network, the virtualization message instructing the port to handle messages addressed to a virtual enclosure port of a virtual enclosure, the virtual enclosure having one or more virtual enclosure ports and being adapted for representing one or more virtual storage units (column 25, lines 29-49 and col. 41, line 54-col. 42, line 20), each of the virtual storage units representing one or more physical storage locations on one or more physical storage units of the storage area network

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(column 25, lines 8-28); and sending a virtualization response from the port of the first network device to the second network device in response to the virtualization message (column 25, lines 50-67 and col. 28, lines 32-51).

38. As per claim 36, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the virtualization message indicates that the port is to obtain an address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port, the method further comprising: obtaining the address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port (column 12, lines 27-54).

39. As per claim 37, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: storing the address or identifier (column 12, lines 27-54).

40. As per claim 38, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the virtualization message indicates that the port is to obtain an address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port from a DNS server, the method further comprising: obtaining the address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port (column 12, lines 27-54).

41. As per claim 39, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: sending the address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port (column 12, lines 27-54).

42. As per claims 40, 42, and 47, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the address or identifier is an FCID (column 28, lines 33-51).

43. As per claim 41, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the virtualization message indicates that the port is to handle messages addressed to an address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port (column 16, line 60-column 17, line 19).

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44. As per claim 43, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: handling messages addressed to the address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port (column 16, line 60-column 17, line 19).

45. As per claim 44, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: handling messages addressed to the virtual enclosure port of the virtual enclosure (column 16, line 60-column 17, line 19).

46. As per claim 45, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: handling messages addressed to the address or identifier assigned to the virtual enclosure port (column 16, line 60-column 17, line 19).

47. As per claim 46, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, further comprising: receiving a report message requesting an identification of one or more of the virtual storage units supported by an address or identifier assigned to one of the virtual enclosure ports (column 12, lines 27-54); sending a reply message identifying one or more of the virtual storage units (column 25, lines 50-67).

48. As per claim 48, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein one or more of the virtual storage units comprises a VLUN or other virtual representation of storage on the storage area network (column 24, lines 34-55 and column 43, lines 1-21).

49. As per claim 49, Blumenau et al. teaches a method, wherein the one or more of the virtual storage units identified in the reply message are those virtual storage units that are visible to an initiator sending the report message (column 25, lines 50-67).

50. As per claim 50, Blumenau et al. teaches a computer-readable medium storing thereon computer readable instructions for implementing storage virtualization in a first

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network device of a storage area network, comprising: instructions for receiving a virtualization message at a port of the first network device from a second network device within the storage area network, the virtualization message instructing the port to handle messages addressed to a virtual enclosure port of a virtual enclosure, the virtual enclosure having one or more virtual enclosure ports and being adapted for representing one or more virtual storage units (column 25, lines 29-49 and col. 41, line 54-col. 42, line 20), each of the virtual storage units representing one or more physical storage locations on one or more physical storage units of the storage area network (column 25, lines 8-28); and instructions sending a virtualization response from the port of the first network device to the second network device in response to the virtualization message (column 25, lines 50-67 and col. 28, lines 32-51).

51. As per claim 51, Blumenau et al. teaches a network device adapted for implementing storage virtualization in a first network device of a storage area network, comprising: means for receiving a virtualization message at a port of the first network device from a second network device within the storage area network, the virtualization message instructing the port to handle messages addressed to a virtual enclosure port of a virtual enclosure, the virtual enclosure having one or more virtual enclosure ports and being adapted for representing one or more virtual storage units (column 25, lines 29-49 and col. 41, line 54-col. 42, line 20), each of the virtual storage units representing one or more physical storage locations on one or more physical storage units of the storage area network (column 25, lines 8-28); and means for sending a virtualization

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response from the port of the first network device to the second network device in response to the virtualization message (column 25, lines 50-67 and col. 28, lines 32-51).

52. As per claim 52, Blumenau et al. teaches a network device adapted for implementing storage virtualization in a first network device of a storage area network, comprising: a processor; and a memory, at least one of the processor and the memory (column 9, lines 25-49), being adapted for: receiving a virtualization message at a port of the first network device from a second network device within the storage area network, the virtualization message instructing the port to handle messages addressed to a virtual enclosure port of a virtual enclosure, the virtual enclosure having one or more virtual enclosure ports and being adapted for representing one or more virtual storage units (column 25, lines 29-49 and col. 41, line 54-col. 42, line 20), each of the virtual storage units representing one or more physical storage locations on one or more physical storage units of the storage area network (column 25, lines 8-28); and sending a virtualization response from the port of the first network device to the second network device in response to the virtualization message (column 25, lines 50-67 and col. 28, lines 32-51).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ranodhi Serrao whose telephone number is (571) 272-7967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30pm, M-F.



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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



RUPAL DHARIA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER